

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04
OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /067 W
-----160839Z 088411 /15
R 160717Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4493

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3766

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN ET
SUBJECT: US-ETHIOPIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

1. IT HAS COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION THAT IN SOME ETHIOPIAN CIRCLES THERE IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT THE US ALREADY HAS BEGUN OR WILL SOON START TO RESTRICT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. THIS VIEW IS BASED IN PART ON THE RECENT DETERIORATION IN THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IN PART BECAUSE NO ETHIOPIAN COFFEE HAS BEEN BOUGHT BY US BROKERS SINCE APRIL 15. SO FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE ABSENCE OF COFFEE PURCHASES IS DUE STRICTLY TO MARKET CONSIDERATIONS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS ON COFFEE TRADE.

2. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO REASSURE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS NOR ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE ANY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BARRING DRASTIC NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THIS COULD BEST BE HANDLED BY A STATEMENT AT OUR NEXT BUSINESSMEN'S MEETING, WHICH WE PROPOSE TO HOLD WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. BEFORE MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO OBTAIN
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THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION AND ALSO THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE CONTENT OF THE STATEMENT. PLEASE ADVISE.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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